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### Service learning in final year

**Citation for published version:**

Gardiner, A, Hogg, A & Johnston, N 2015, 'Service learning in final year', VetEd 2015, Cambridge, United Kingdom, 8/07/15 - 10/07/15.

**Link:**

[Link to publication record in Edinburgh Research Explorer](#)

**Document Version:**

Peer reviewed version

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THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH  
The Royal (Dick) School  
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# Service-learning in final year

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Service-learning, where senior students participate in delivering primary care within a workplace environment, has attracted attention within veterinary educational literature because of the rich learning experiences it can deliver (Howe et al 1999; Freeman et al 2013). Most accounts describe high volume spay/neuter clinics operating within shelter medicine. This poster describes a similar approach applied to companion animal dentistry.



12 final year students took part in a 3-week dentistry and ophthalmology selective rotation, including two weeks of dentistry at Edinburgh PDSA Pet Aid Hospital



80 dental cases of varying complexity were treated across the three cycles of the rotation



Students planned and carried out all anaesthesia (including local blocks) and treatment other than complex surgical extractions



Extraction wet labs and a day in referral dental/oral surgical practice were included in the rotation timetable



Many higher risk cases were treated, e.g. brachycephalic airway, O-SAD cases (old, sick, anorexic due to dental disease)



Students reported high levels of enjoyment and learning during the rotation, citing repeated through-case management as being the most beneficial feature

Howe, L.M. et al (1999) Using community based service learning projects to improve surgical instruction. *Journal of Veterinary Medical Education* 25: 12-15.

Freeman, L.J. et al (2013) Service learning: Priority 4 Paws Mobile Surgical Service for Shelter Animals. *JVME* 40(4): 389-396.